

**Legislative Testimony  
Appropriations Committee  
Governor's Proposed FY 23 Budget Adjustments  
HB 5037 An Act Adjusting the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30,  
2023  
February 23, 2022**

Dear Senator Osten, Representative Walker, and Members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Dr. William Nash. I have been practicing dentistry in Fairfield Connecticut for 44 years. I am a general dentist, a Past President of the Connecticut State Dental Association and a board member of the CT Foundation for Dental Outreach, the organization that stages the CT Mission of Mercy projects, providing free dental care to CT residents.

I am writing in regards to the Governor's Proposed FY 23 Budget Adjustments for the Department of Social Services and the proposed increase to adult dental Medicaid reimbursement rates.

At our last mission in New London, we continue to see mouths that are devastated by the patient's inability to obtain affordable dental care. The importance of dental health as it relates to general health is well documented and I will not belabor the point here. Suffice to say, anything that improves dental health in an individual has benefits that ripple out to other aspects of that person's life, sometimes in ways we cannot imagine.

At a recent (pre-COVID) CT MOM clinic, I spoke to a young man who, after receiving a partial denture at a previous clinic, had the confidence to apply for a job in sales and, having some success there, asked his girlfriend to marry him. Stories like his are why I keep coming back to these clinics.

We get very few children at these Missions, mostly because the reimbursement rates for them are high enough for dentists to break even or make a small profit. While the proposed increase in adult fees will not bring the fees to the same level, it will undoubtedly increase access for adults and improve the condition of many of their mouths. Hopefully with some results similar to the example above

I thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this important issue.

Respectfully Submitted,

William Nash, DMD  
Fairfield, CT